

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Slattery (Reg. #28,380) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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JMS/nv
1503-0133P
Attachments

(Rev. 12/19/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. The assembly of [claims 1-3] claim 1, **characterized** in that on an outer wall (5) of the chamber (12) is provided a weir (4).

5. The assembly of [claims 1-4] claim 1, **characterized** in that the flow guide (2) is shaped so as to guide the air-containing liquid flow (7) essentially upward toward the surface of the liquid level.

6. The assembly of [claims 1-5] claim 1, **characterized** in that the bottom of the flow guide (2) most advantageously has a concave shape with its edges curving upward toward the surface of the liquid level or, alternatively, as required by the properties of the liquid handled in the process, is shaped either as a flat plane or with a downward convex shape.

7. The assembly of [claims 1-6] claim 1, **characterized** in that the flow guide (2) is made from sheet metal, perforated plate or other sheet material having a desired contour such as undulated plate and that the flow guide (2) is most advantageously mounted on support rods (10) that displace the flow guide substantially at a distance from the lower end of the inlet pipe (1).

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